**History of Congo:**

* **The history of Congo all began when Bantu people from western Africa migrated into the ‘Congo Basin’ many many years ago.**
* **Before the people above came, there were few kingdoms that existed before Europeans arrived. The ‘Kongo Kingdom’ controlled the southwest until the Portuguese arrived within the late 1400’s.**
* **Some European intervention occurred until late 1800’s, when a man named Leopold II formed an international trading company to manipulate the Congo region’s rich resources.**
* **The Belgian Parliament was moved to destroy the domain from King Leopold in 1908. Then the area of Congo became known as the Belgian Congo.**
* **After World War II, the Congolese negotiated with Belgium for their want for independence. In 1960, they received their name of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The leader who helped gaining independence, Patrice Lumumba became Prime minister, but when Katanga seceded, Lumumba was murdered and the UN troops couldn’t restore peace.**
* **5 years later Mobutu Sese Seko eventually gained the power, and within 6 more years in 1971, he renamed the country the Republic of Zaire, after the Portuguese name for the Congo River.**
* **Mobutu really wasn’t the nicest leader, he ruled a very brutal one-party dictatorship and robbed the national treasury to amass his own personal fortune. Because of him many of the important things needed for the Country began to collapse.**
* **Total collapse started occurring with the Minor political reform in 1994, but slowly the war in Rwanda began to enter into Zaire. A million Hutu refugees from Rwanda swelled makeshift camps in eastern Zaire. Some of these refugees seemed to be ‘armed’ and started killing ethnic Tutsis in Zaire.**
* **Once these refugees went killing, the Rwandan government organized a Tutsis militia that quickly defeated Zairian troops helping the Hutus.**
* **In May 1997, Kabila entered Kinshasa, declaring himself as president and changing Zaire’s name back to the Democratic Republic of Congo. (Mobutu died in September 1997 from exile.)**
* **Promises of democracy were faulted by Kabila’s ban of political parties and suppression of political demonstrations. During August 1998 several of Kabila’s allies accused him of his corruption. They decided to go and join with ethnic Tutsi rebels in the east and start a new round of civil war.**
* **Angola, Zimbabwe, and Namibia fought on Kabila’s “side”.**
* **Rwanda and Uganda allied with the rebel movement, and soon controlled most of the eastern Congo-Kinshasa. Then those rebels soon split.**
* **In 2001, Kabila was assassinated. Then his son Joseph Kabila took over as president and made peace measures that led to a treaty in December of 2002.**
* **The war was then declared over and foreign troops then left the country.**
* **But another little issue started up in 2008 with heavy fighting between the government and rebel forces.**
* **During 2009 the Congolese ad Rwandan militaries launched a joint operation against rebel troops.**
* **But violence still continues throughout the region.**